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## BRIGHT METEOR SEEN SEPTEMBER 10, 1890.

[Extract from a Private Letter.]

\* \* \* "This evening, at 10:15 o'clock, a beautiful meteor passed overhead, tending west. There were four colors plainly visible—green, violet, white and red. The heavens had the appearance of bright moonlight. The light lasted probably twenty or twenty-five seconds. The trail of light left seemed to have a cloudy appearance, and gradually disappeared. The stone ceased to give light at about twelve or fifteen degrees above the horizon, I should judge. There was a soft, rustling sound, like the wave of a piece of silk through the air.

"Hoping that this bit of information may be of use to science,  
I am, "Yours truly, H. E. WITHERSPOON."

FT. JONES, Siskiyou County, Cal., September 10, 1890.

## LANCASTER'S LIST OF OBSERVATORIES AND ASTRONOMERS, ETC.

M. LANCASTER has just printed the third edition (1890) of his very useful and accurate *Liste générale des Observatoires et des Astronomes, des Sociétés et des Revues astronomiques*. For each observatory (Section I) there is given the name, the latitude and longitude, the title, etc., of the last publication, and a list of the persons employed as astronomers, computers, etc. Section II contains short but excellent accounts of the principal astronomical societies; while Section III gives similar accounts of such institutions as the French Bureau of Longitude, the English and American Nautical Almanac Offices, etc. Section IV is devoted to astronomical journals. Section V gives the addresses, etc., of astronomers not regularly employed in observatories, amateurs, etc.; and Section VI gives similar data relating to the leading constructors of instruments. A complete index of names concludes this very convenient volume of 147 pages.

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS AND COMPUTERS EMPLOYED IN THE  
LEADING OBSERVATORIES.

From the work just mentioned I have extracted the following data relating to the number of persons regularly employed in astronomical work—either in observations or calculations:

(The Lick Observatory has five astronomers.) The following-named observatories have five or more regularly employed: Algiers (5), Besançon (8), Bordeaux (6), Brussels (8), Cape of Good Hope (7), Cordoba (5), Greenwich (about 20), Grignon (5), Harvard